

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Annual Assessment of the Status of</b>	)	<b>MB Docket No. 12-203</b>
<b>Competition in the Market for the</b>	)	
<b>Delivery of Video Programming</b>	)	

**COMMENTS OF  
College Access Television at IPFW**

Bernard Lohmuller submits these comments in response to the above-captioned Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”), released July 20, 2012, seeking “data, information, and comment on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming.”

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) is a comprehensive state university located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. College Access Television has been operated by IPFW for more than 30 years for the purpose of extending the missions of local, non-profit colleges and universities in the Fort Wayne/Allen County, Indiana area through the medium of television.

1. How many channels does your MVPD operator(s) provide for PEG programming?

Five channels are provided by both Comcast and Frontier FiOS in Fort Wayne and Allen County for PEG programming.

2. On which tier are these channels placed and is extra equipment required to view them?

CATV is located on the lowest tier and presently may be viewed without a converter.

3. Are there more or fewer PEG channels carried on MVPD systems than were carried as of June 2010?

The same number.

4. What data sources exist to track the availability of PEG programming?

There are several means available in our community to locate PEG programming. The local Journal Gazette prints a channel guide that is included with the Sunday newspaper. The News Sentinel prints a channel guide that is included with the Saturday evening newspaper.

Comcast includes our channel information in their website and it identifies us as

“Educational Access.” Comcast also includes our detailed program listing information in their on-screen information panels. We submit this information on a weekly basis.

Frontier FiOS identifies us as “Local Origination” online (ditto the other four access channels in our area) and does not provide access to their on-screen service. No program information is available to viewers through their system.

5. Not applicable in our area.

6. Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana have benefitted greatly for many years from the robust and highly-utilized cable television access system here. By having “channels” dedicated to public, K-12, government, and college areas of interest, the community partners who operate the centers are better able to focus on these areas. This allows the access centers to respond to topic-specific demand better and more efficiently.

College Access Television (CATV) produces close to 1,000 programs each year. Many of these are college credit courses that enable students to learn from either their homes, student housing, or workplace. We actually teach an electrical engineering technology course to engineers and technicians a local industry utilizing a laboratory system located on-site in their workplaces.

I have found very few other campuses in the county where the local cable access channel is used to teach courses to students. We have been doing this for more than 25 years. This semester (Fall 2012) we are carrying 14 credit classes that range from accounting to religion and culture.

The television station also provides work opportunities for college students. This semester we have over 25 student employees who are vital to station operation, program production, editing, graphic design, and marketing.

Our station is able to produce some otherwise unavailable programming to our community such as lectures from world-class presenters. An example is our Omnibus Lecture Series that features such distinguished speakers as Sandra Day O’Connor. We produce programs of concerts, theatrical productions, public service programs, and community outreach programs such as the regional science and engineering fair. We have partnered with almost all of the local broadcast television stations to offer to the community-at-large political debates, regional spelling bees, and holiday concerts from our campus.

Several years ago, Indiana decided to franchise cable systems at the state level. While this change has not yet impacted us directly here in Fort Wayne, there are significant efforts at the state level to undermine local cable access television. In each of the last two years, a state representative has attempted to attach legislation that would abolish franchise fees for cable operators. If we were to lose franchise fees, our university, which partners with the local community to operate the access center, would very likely not be able to continue to maintain the education services to our community that we now offer. We remain convinced that this individual will attempt to again this year slip such destructive legislation into a bill.

In our 30 plus years of service we have helped thousands of students advance their college careers both in serving as a means to take courses and as an employer. The cable access system has enabled this to happen in our community. No other system can match it for effectiveness and economic efficiency.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on our experience with cable access television.

Very sincerely,

Bernard J. Lohmuller

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